



# Louisiana's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy



# Components of CWCS

1. Assess the distribution and abundance of wildlife species, including rare and declining species, that are indicative of the diversity and health of the State's wildlife
2. Describe the location and relative condition of key habitats and community types essential to conservation of these species
3. Identify problems that adversely affect these species and habitats as well as research and survey efforts needed to address these problems

# Components of CWCS

4. Identify conservation actions needed to conserve these species and habitats, and priorities for implementing these actions
5. Develop plans for monitoring these species and habitats, monitoring the effectiveness of conservation actions, and adapting conservation actions to respond to new information or changing conditions
6. Develop procedures to review the conservation strategy at intervals not to exceed ten years

# Components of CWCS

7. Coordinate plan development and implementation with federal, state, and local governments and other organizations that manage significant areas of the state or administer wildlife conservation programs
8. Encourage public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of the conservation strategy



# Factors Considered for Selection of Species of Conservation Concern

Rarity (global and state)

Endemism

Distribution in Louisiana (ecoregions, habitats)

Degree of imperilment, major threats

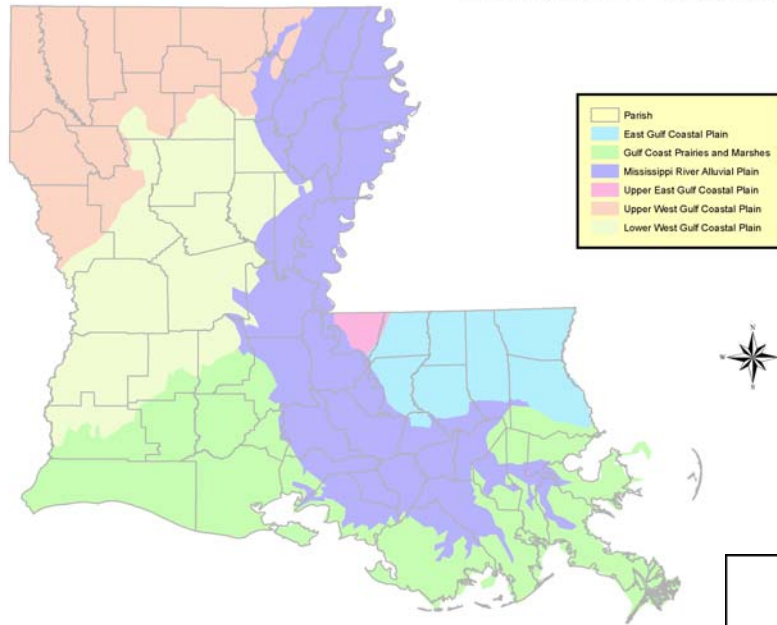
Population/habitat trends

Current level of protection

Research and survey needs



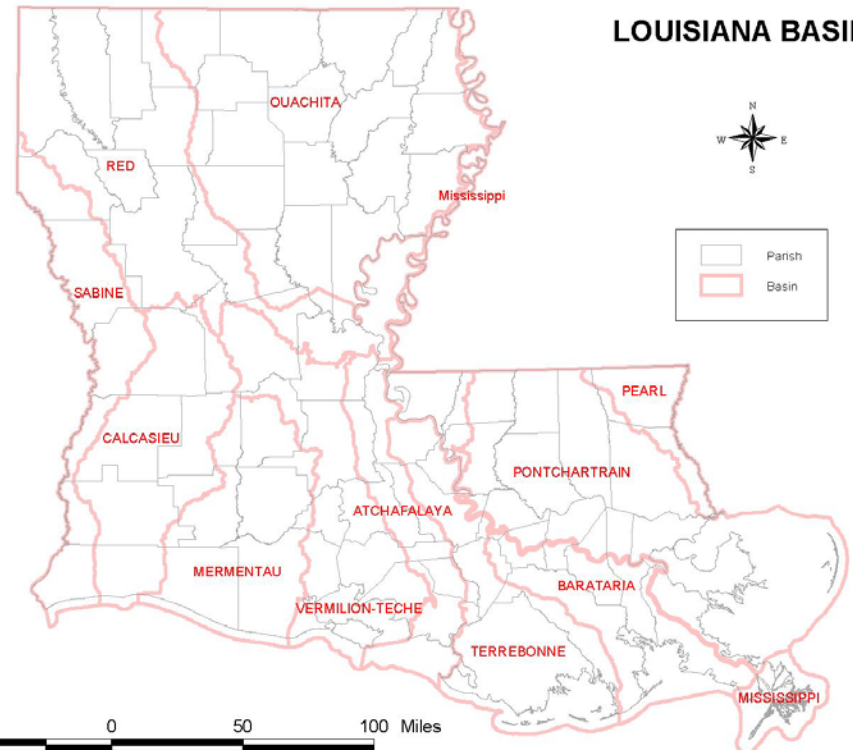
## LOUISIANA ECOREGIONS



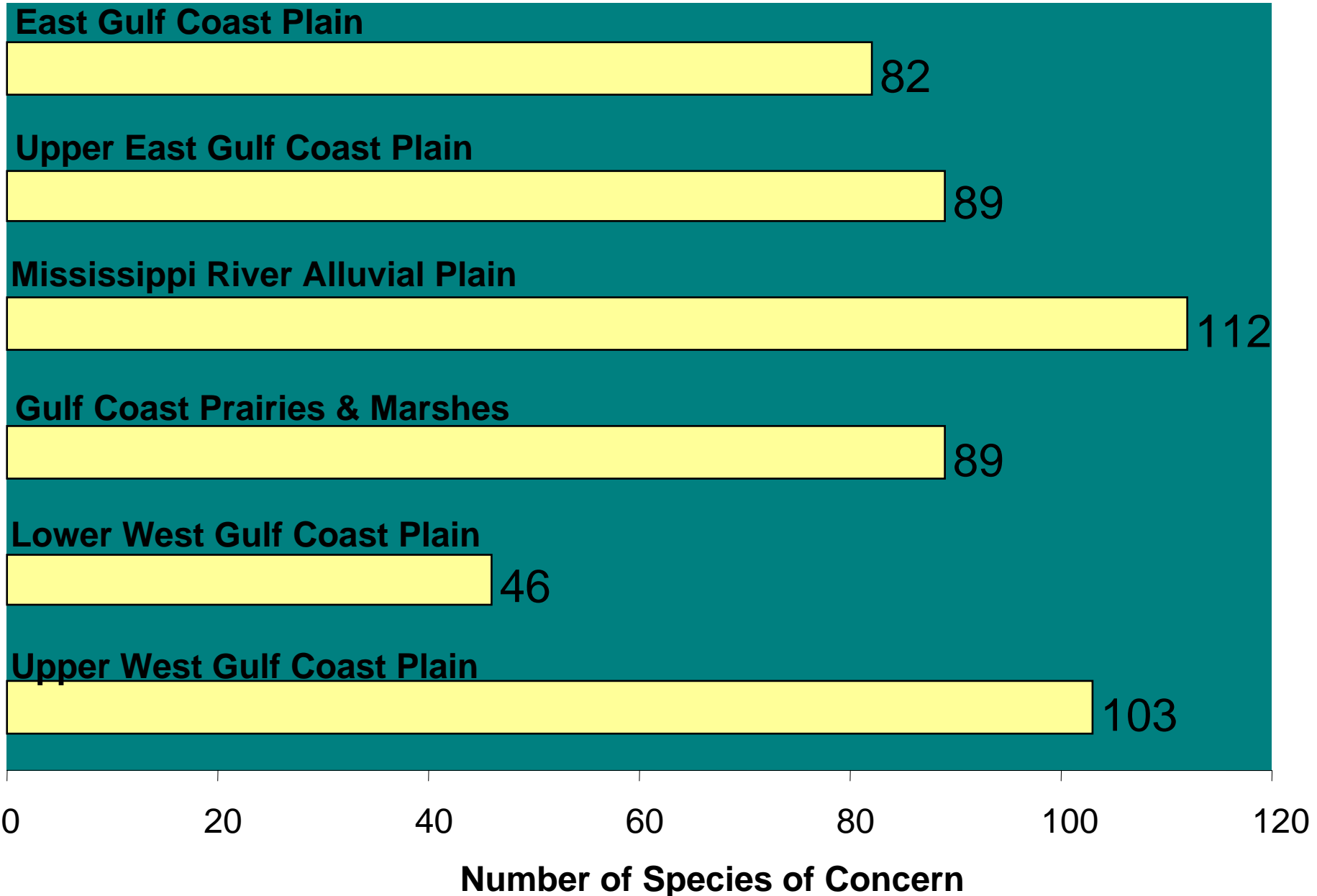
# Terrestrial Habitats by ecoregion

# Aquatic Habitats by river basin

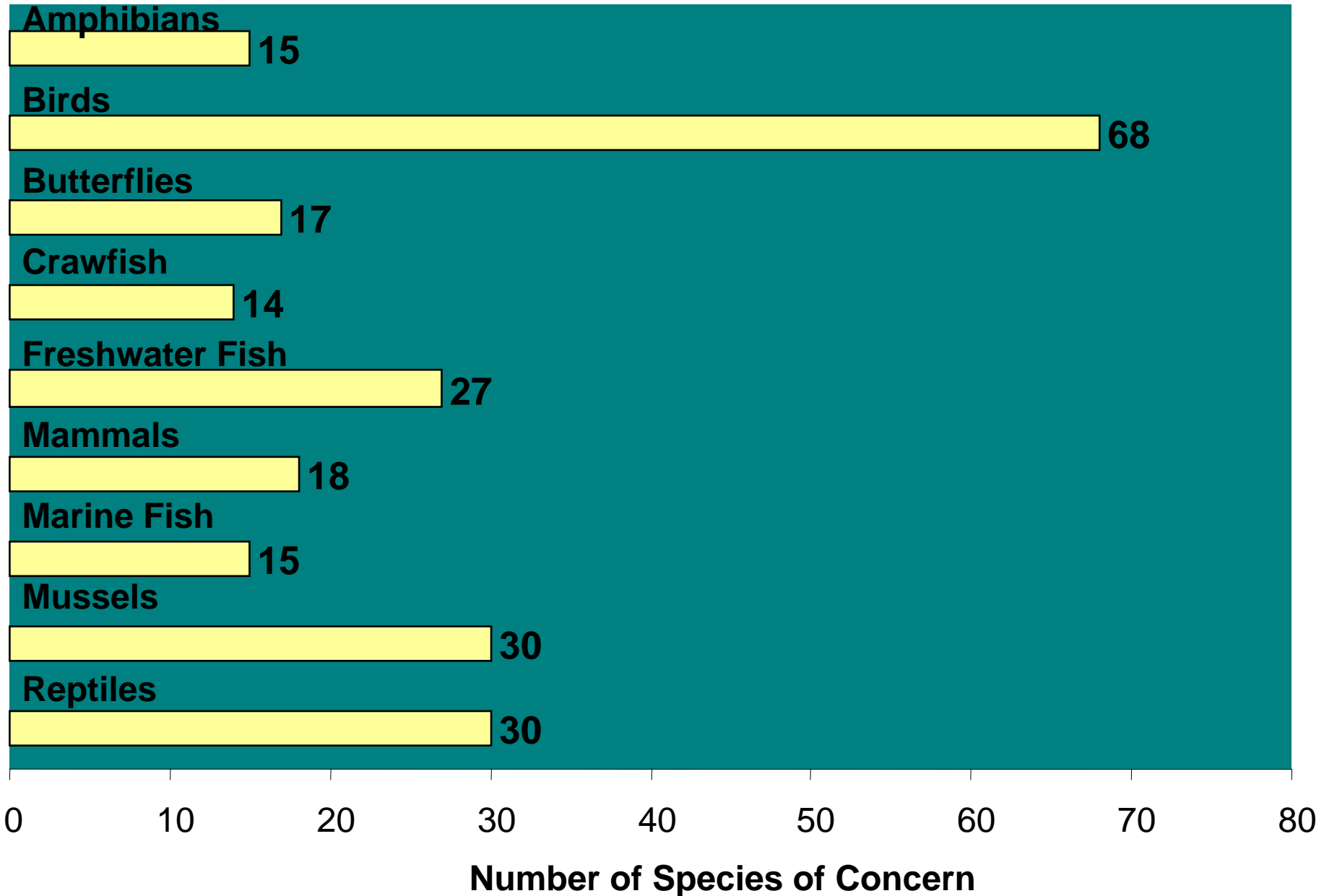
## LOUISIANA BASINS



# CWCS Species by Ecoregion



# CWCS Species by Taxonomic Group Statewide







# Habitats in Louisiana



# Communities & Habitats Defined...



- Natural communities are composed of groups of plant and animal species that regularly or often occur in association with each other in certain landscapes or physical environments.
- Habitat types are the specific natural communities where a plant or animal species resides or is ordinarily found.



# Prioritizing Habitats...

66 - primary Natural Communities occur in Louisiana

from: Louisiana Natural Heritage Program

37 - Habitat types identified for LA's species of conservation concern

**Includes:** Descriptions, Locations, Condition, Threats

**Organized by:** Ecoregion & prioritized for action according to number of species, habitat viability, threats



# Why Focus on Habitats?

- Loss of habitat or changes in habitat condition are two reasons most often attributed to species decline
- A single habitat type may support many different animal species & therefore, conserving key habitats can ensure long-term survival for multiple species.
- Dollars are conserved, as well as, species by protecting shared habitats.



# Habitat Condition & Threats:

- Following European settlement, wildlife habitats have been significantly altered by human land use practices
- Returning Louisiana's habitats to conditions occurring prior to settlement is NOT a goal of this strategy



# Habitat Condition & Threats: cont...

- Understanding the conditions for which wildlife species are adapted and changes that have occurred allow us to better understand why some species have declined
- Identifying changes in conditions that have most affected species can guide us in development of habitat-based actions to alleviate problems



# Strategy Development:

- Despite environmental alteration, many ecological communities have a real potential for recovery or increased functionality
- Develop actions to improve management, protection & conservation of wildlife habitats while providing for multiple uses



A close-up photograph of a large, muddy paw print in a wet, brownish-grey mud. The print shows distinct claw marks and a central pad. In the top left corner, a portion of a reddish-brown leaf is visible. The background is a textured surface of mud with several smaller, fainter paw prints scattered across it. Three lines of yellow text are overlaid on the image: 'Be it' and 'Large...' on the left, 'We need' and 'your input!' on the right, and 'Or small...' at the bottom left.

Be it  
Large...

We need  
your input!

Or small...